

Asylees may
receive certain
public assistance
benefits and
social services
from the date
their asylum
application is
granted
final approval.

Inside this brochure
is a summary of the
eligibility requirements
and
available benefits.



CDSS

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Public Benefits for Asylees in California



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

**HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES AGENCY**

S. Kimberly Belshé, Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Eligibility

You may be eligible for benefits if you have received final approval of your asylum application by:

- The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Asylum Office;
- An Immigration Judge; or
- The Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA)



You will need one of the following:

- I-94 Card stamped with “Asylum Approved”;
- Approval letter from the INS Asylum Office; or
- A court order granting asylum



You are NOT eligible for benefits if you have:

- An asylum case pending with the INS Asylum Office or an Immigration Judge;
- An asylum case on appeal with the BIA; or
- The INS has reserved the right to appeal an INS Judge’s decision to grant you asylum.

Benefits

SOCIAL SERVICES

- Refugee Cash Assistance
- Refugee Employment Services
- CalWORKs, Food Stamps, and other Social Services



HEALTH SERVICES

Refugee Medical Assistance

- Health assessments and physical examinations performed by a Licensed Health Care Provider
- Medical interpreters and culturally sensitive staff are provided
- Preventive health care, which includes dental screening, Pap smear, and mammograms
- Immunizations that will assist in adjusting status and obtaining green cards
- Blood and skin tests to detect illnesses
- Referrals for identified health conditions
- Translated health education materials and counseling

Time Limit

Asylees may be eligible for cash and health benefits for up to eight months from the date asylum is granted and social services for up to 60 months.

For more information, contact your local county welfare office. For the phone number and location of the welfare office or local health department in your county, you may call the California Department of Social Services’ Refugee Programs Branch at

(916) 654-6379

or website at

www.dss.cahwnet.gov/refugeeprogram